

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. FORS-06111

44. The system of Claim 43, wherein said reagent dispensing station comprises a viewing window configured to allow visual inspection of reagent reservoirs without opening said enclosure.

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were in the Application as filed. The Examiner has made a restriction requirement, restricting the Claims into three groups, with Group I comprising Claims 1-16; Group II comprising Claims 17-25 and 33-35; and Group III comprising Claims 26-32.

The Examiner has characterized Group I Claims as being drawn to a cartridge for use in an open nucleic acid synthesis system and a system comprising an open nucleic acid synthesis cartridge. Group II Claims are characterized as being drawn to a nucleic acid synthesis system and a method of synthesis comprising a synthesis and purge component. The Applicant notes that Claims 22-25 of Group II depend from Claim 2 of Group I, and are drawn to a system comprising an open nucleic acid synthesis cartridge. Applicant believes that the Examiner intends that these Claims be included in Group I, such that Group I comprises Claims 1-16 and 22-25.

To further business interests, Applicant has elected the Claims in Group I, i.e., Claims 1-16 and 22-25, without traverse. Claims 17-21 and 26-35 are cancelled herein without prejudice in view of the present restriction requirement. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims in one or more Divisional Applications.

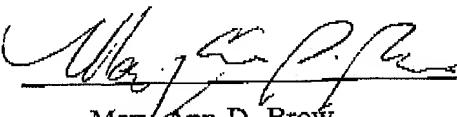
Claims 36-44 have been added. New claims 36-44 depend from an existing Group I Claim, and are drawn to a system comprising an open nucleic acid synthesis cartridge, consistent with the elected invention. Support for these claims is found throughout the Application. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the entire set of pending claims is attached at Appendix I.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 218-6900.

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